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The Communist World

THE MOSCOW TEST-BAN TALKS

Khrushchev used the occasion of his 19 July speech at a rally for Hungarian leader Kadar to state publicly his views on the test-ban talks. The tone of the speech suggested that he expected the tripartite talks to reach an early agreement on a limited nuclear test ban. The Soviet premier seemed to treat an agreement virtually as an accomplished fact by expressing the hope that it will be "useful" in improving the international atmosphere. He also claimed that it would demonstrate the validity of his policy of peaceful coexistence.

Khrushchev did not indicate that an agreement banning tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water would be conditional on a moratorium on underground tests or on a NATO - Warsaw Pact nonaggression treaty. He simply stated that "we would like to hope" that the Moscow talks will produce agreement on a nonaggression pact and hinted at considerable flexibility on the precise formula for such an agreement. Soviet commentators have echoed his

remark that the main thing about a nonaggression pact "is not the form but the content."

Khrushchev's speech reflected his apparent intention to use the current talks as a point of departure for further negotiations on a nonaggression pact and other proposals bearing on European security. He renewed previous Soviet proposals for reductions in military budgets and measures to prevent surprise attack. The only variant he suggested would provide for stationing Western representatives with Soviet forces in East Germany and Soviet representatives with Western forces in the Federal Republic.

Soviet commentators are still careful to temper their optimistic assessments of the prospects for a successful conclusion of the talks with routine warnings that "influential circles" in Washington, Bonn, and Paris are working against an accord.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUL 2002

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